

women to our military academies. Each year, I have the opportunity to meet students who have excelled in both their academic fields as well as their extracurricular activities. Each of these fine young men and women would excel at our finest private and public universities; however, they all share a singular distinction that separates them from their peers—they all share a deep commitment to their communities and their nation and so, they seek nomination to our prestigious military academies.

This year the nominating board interviewed over 60 superb applicants from the 8th District of Pennsylvania to our service academies and I want to take time to recognize each one of them by name. I think it is also proper to acknowledge the board members who had the arduous job of interviewing so many exceedingly qualified students that the 8th District has to offer. I congratulate these students on their commitment and dedication. They all make our nation and our world a better place.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2005 FROM THE 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA:

United States Military Academy: Rocco C. Boccuti of Doylestown, Bronne Joseph Bruzgo, Jr. of Yardley, Evan Alexander Cumming of Yardley, Andrew Curtis Detwiler of Souderton, Thomas R. Dunn of Chalfont, David Edison Geib of Telford, William Paul Herbert of Dresher, Andrew Kim of Dresher, Charles Kenneth Ridge, Jr. of Langhorne, Alexander C. Shelby of Morrisville, and William Warren Zuber, Jr. of Newtown.

United States Naval Academy: Eamon Emmett Coleman of Yardley, Carli Ann Dimino of New Hope, William Edwin Doar of Langhorne, Thomas Michael Kane of Doylestown, Rachael Elizabeth Koehler of Perkasio, Van Gordon Lawson of Doylestown, Aaron Christopher Marchant of Doylestown, Stephen William Ullrich, Jr. of Southampton, Andrew Ventresca of Chalfont, and William Warren Zuber, Jr. of Newtown.

United States Air Force Academy: Kathryn Leigh Aden of Newtown, Bronne Joseph Bruzgo, Jr. of Yardley, Evan Alexander Cumming of Yardley, Andrew Curtis Detwiler of Souderton, Jason Robert Hallenbeck of Upper Black Eddy, Jacob Cody Hunt of Morrisville, Andrew Kim of Dresher, Daniel Andrew Lusardi of Holland, and Philip Michael Smith of Doylestown.

United States Merchant Marine Academy: Jacqueline Elizabeth Bors of Willow Grove, Bronne Joseph Bruzgo, Jr. of Yardley, Evan Alexander Cumming of Yardley, John Anderson Geating of Roslyn, Stefan Nordtveit of Newtown, Haley Rae Wallace of Doylestown, and William Warren Zuber, Jr. of Newtown.

USMA Board Members: Mr. Joseph R. Barkley '65, Mr. Scott Belveal '92, Mr. Dan Caraccio '84, LTC Willis C. Collett Jr. '58, Ms. Elizabeth W. Fineburg, Mr. Alex Gorsky '82, Mr. Frederick R. Gudknecht, Mr. Paul Pryor. USMA-MALO: Mr. Kevin J. Wallace '84, Mr. Robert J. Welch '84.

USNA Board Members: Adm. Steven Chadwick, USN, Mr. James J. Gormley, Jr., Mrs. Barbara Z. Kolbe, Col. Tom Manion, USMC, Dr. Jonathan W. McCullough, Captain Dave Stacy, USN, Mrs. Suzanne M. Twiggs, Captain R. A. "Skip" Wiegand, USN, (Ret.).

USAFR Board Members: Col. Harris H. Brooks, USAFR, Mr. Bob Campbell, Lt. Col. Janice B. Cope, USAFR (Ret.), Lt. Col. Sue DeGiovanni, USAFR, Lt. Col. Vincent DeGiovanni, USAFR, Maj. Wayne Fowler, USAFR, Mr. Raymond Fresella, Mr. Eugene Schaefer, Jr.

## HAND-IN-HAND

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hand-in-Hand, an organization that seeks to break down barriers by uniting the entire Saint Joseph's University community, area volunteers, and the disabled communities of the tri-state region. Saint Joseph's University was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1851 and is home to 3,450 full-time undergraduates and 2,900 graduate and nontraditional students. The University's strong liberal arts tradition is marked by rigorous and open-minded inquiry, high academic standards, and the development of the whole person.

Hand-in-Hand was founded by George Carasiti, a Saint Joseph's of 1978 graduate. Hand-in-Hand brings to campus approximately 450 area people with mental and physical handicaps and 750 local high school students who have volunteered to be their buddies for the day. The high school students also pair with Saint Joseph's students from various campus organizations, sports teams, and fraternities and sororities who in turn, run game booths, play music, and serve as mascots and buddies for their annual event.

Hand-in-Hand earned a 1988 Presidential Citation from the White House Office of Private Sector Initiatives for "outstanding contributions to the American spirit of volunteerism and community action." Also honored by the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Citizens and the Elwyn Institute, Hand-in-Hand is the model for similar festivals at 10 other colleges and universities, including the University of Scranton, Johns Hopkins University, and Georgetown University. Additionally Saint Joseph's Office of Student Leadership and Activities named Hand-in-Hand the best student organization in 2000 and again in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Hand-in-Hand for their efforts to change the mindsets, open hearts, enrich lives, and break down the barriers of fears and ignorance that have isolated people with disabilities from the rest of American society.

## RECOGNIZING PECO INC.'S DESIGNATION AS BOEING'S "SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR"

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the accomplishments of PECO Inc., a company that operates in Oregon's 3rd Congressional District and has been in business for nearly 70 years.

PECO Inc. has received Boeing's "Supplier of the Year" honor for the Interiors category. This distinguished award highlights the value of efficient, professional companies with long histories in this region.

PECO Inc. employs more than 200 people, and has previously won the Boeing President's Award in 1988 and the Outstanding Performance Award in 1994, as well as similar awards from IBM, Raytheon, Control Data, Varian, and Storage Technology. The employ-

ees at PECO Inc., have earned a high honor for the region.

## HONORING UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMANDER NEIL L. NICKERSON

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Coast Guard Commander Neil Nickerson and to commemorate his illustrious career of dedicated service to our nation.

Commander Nickerson graduated from the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in March 1984. Since then, he has served a wide range of tours taking him from the Atlantic, to the Pacific, through the Panama Canal, across the Equator and into the Arctic Circle.

During his first tour in Miami Beach, Florida, Commander Nickerson assisted with search, rescue and recovery for the tragic Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. He then served in Guam and Alameda, California, where he began law enforcement missions ranging from drug interdiction to fishery regulation. Several years later, Commander Nickerson began service as Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the San Diego, California Navy Fleet Training Group. From there, he became Commanding Officer of USCGC *Liberty* in Alaska.

Over the course of these tours, Commander Nickerson distinguished himself as an outstanding officer, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike. Based on these merits, in 1995 he was one of the elite few selected to attend post-graduate education at the Naval War College. Upon completion of this rigorous coursework, he began service in the Budget Office of Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Soon thereafter, Commander Nickerson assumed the position of Executive Officer of the USCGC *Alex Haley* in Alaska. During his tenure, he oversaw the complete refurbishing of the former US Navy ship. Commander Nickerson then led the USCGC *Alex Haley* on its maiden voyage from the Naval shipyard in Philadelphia through the Panama Canal and up to Kodiak, Alaska. Following this tour, Commander Nickerson began service as Executive Officer of the USCGC *Jarvis* in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he continues to serve today.

This year, Commander Nickerson will retire from 22 years of service to the US Coast Guard. Throughout his accomplished career, Commander Nickerson has kept with the highest traditions of the US Coast Guard and serves as an inspiration to us all. In recognition of his exceptional performance of duty, Commander Nickerson has been awarded six Coast Guard Commendation Medals with Operational Distinguishing Device on all. On the occasion of his retirement, the US Coast Guard also will be awarding him the Meritorious Service Medal. This prestigious honor recognizes officers that have demonstrated expert knowledge, effective management and outstanding leadership.